

For the past 10 years it has been my privilege to join with Senator COATS in serving the people of Indiana. During that time, he has epitomized strong character and devotion to public service.

Senator COATS has been a determined advocate for his point of view, but also a good listener who has often forged compromises that benefited our Nation. He has been a work horse able to shoulder the daily burdens of a thousand details, but also a thoughtful observer who sees beyond the politics of the moment to provide perspective on the direction of our country. And he has been an effective defender of the interests of Indiana, while always upholding his national responsibilities.

DAN COATS has applied his expertise and commitment to many of the most critical areas of public policy. He has become one of our foremost advocates for protecting America's children and strengthening American families. His knowledge of military issues and his leadership on the Armed Forces Committee will be difficult to replace.

Of particular note is his Project for American Renewal, because it speaks to both DAN's personal convictions and his legislative innovation. With this project—a set of 19 legislative proposals—he has succeeded in articulating a coherent philosophy of compassionate conservatism.

Senator COATS understands that the limits of government do not limit our responsibilities to each other as citizens of a great nation. His project promotes volunteerism, charitable giving, personal responsibility, and the cohesiveness of communities. His proposal embodies both Senator COAT's insightful reading of modern American social conditions and his optimism for our future. I know that Senator COATS will continue to be an eloquent spokesman for the Project for American Renewal as he returns to private life.

I am especially sad to see Senator COATS leave because he has been an outstanding partner. Ever since he arrived in the Senate in 1989, he and I have operated a unique joint office arrangement in Indiana designed to maximize our efforts on behalf of Hoosiers. By combining our resources, we have been able to provide better service at less expense to the citizens of Indiana.

Many Senate colleagues over the years have been surprised when they learn that we share office space and staffs in Indiana. They understand the daunting challenges of combining the staffs of two independent-minded Senators with distinct responsibilities and committee assignments. But our Hoosier partnership has been strong and supportive, for which I am deeply appreciative.

Senator COATS leaves the Senate after 10 years having established a legion of friendships and a legacy of achievement and integrity. The Senate will miss his expertise, his hard work, his thoughtful reflection, and his tal-

ent for innovation. I am confident that DAN will continue to serve the public in the many challenges that lie ahead of him. I wish DAN and Marcia Coats all the best as they move on to these new adventures.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I wish to compliment the distinguished senior Senator from Indiana for his parting words about our colleague. I agree with him. It will come as no surprise that there are those on this side of the aisle, like myself, who also will miss DAN COATS and who are most impressed by the way that he and his distinguished colleague work together.

SENATOR JOHN GLENN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is a time when Senators say goodbye to Senators who are leaving, and I was privileged, in 1974, to be elected with a very special class of Senators, a very large class of Senators—nearly a dozen—who came to this body. We developed personal friendships. Of that class, there are only four left: The distinguished senior Senator from Ohio, Mr. GLENN; the distinguished senior Senator from Kentucky, Mr. FORD; the distinguished senior Senator from Arkansas, Mr. BUMPER; and myself. Each of the other three have announced their plans to retire this year. In some ways I feel like the lonely person who is given the chore to turn out the lights after everybody else leaves, because I will be the last of the class of 1974.

I am going to speak of each of them, but I wish to speak now and to give tribute to a great statesman, a person who is recognized as a true American hero and a very good friend of mine, JOHN HERSHEL GLENN, Jr.

As I said, we both arrived in the Senate at the same time in 1974. There was a big difference, however. I came here as a 34-year-old unknown county prosecutor from rural Vermont. JOHN GLENN arrived here as a living American legend. We have served together now for 24 years and it is with the fondest memories that I recollect his time here. I remember the very first day I met him. The two of us had gone over to see the legendary Jim Eastland, President pro tempore of the Senate. That is probably the only time, then or since, I have ever seen JOHN GLENN look at all nervous, was going in to see Senator Eastland. Senator GLENN was nervous. I was terrified. There is a big difference.

But JOHN GLENN will be remembered here in the Senate as a man who advocated a role for Government in daily life, but he never stopped trying to make Government more efficient. He is one of our leading experts on science and technology. He has always been a tireless advocate for Government-sponsored scientific and health research. He brought tremendous intellect and dedi-

cation to the task of preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction. I remember when the United States and the Soviet Union were locked in a wasteful nuclear arms race, JOHN GLENN was a voice of reason and moderation.

He has used his seat on the Armed Services Committee to advocate for our men and women in uniform, while at the same time looking out for wasteful spending. I remember, when I and others began to have doubts about the costly B-2 bomber—\$2 billion a plane—that I read papers and memos about it. JOHN GLENN went out and flew it, then came back and said its cost outweighed its benefits. I credit him for saving the taxpayers a lot of money.

He used his position in the Governmental Affairs Committee to expose waste in Government and to clean up the Nation's nuclear materials production plants.

In his conduct here in the Senate, JOHN has always been nonpartisan, polite, accommodating, but always true to his beliefs. His personality reminds me of Longfellow's words, "A tender heart; a will inflexible."

It is hard for us to think of JOHN GLENN before he was a national hero, but not so long ago he was a smalltown boy like many of us. He was born on July 18, 1921, in Cambridge, OH. He grew up in the tiny town of New Concord, OH. But, like millions of Americans, his life was forever changed by World War II.

Many of us know the details of what makes JOHN GLENN a hero, but I want to repeat them for my colleagues. Shortly after Pearl Harbor, he was commissioned in the Marines Corps. He served as a fighter pilot in the South Pacific. He stayed in the Marines, and when the Korean War started, JOHN GLENN requested combat duty. He ended up flying 149 combat missions in both wars. How good a pilot is our colleague from Ohio? In the last 9 days of fighting in Korea, he downed three Chinese MiG fighters in combat along the Yalu River.

In July 1957, he set a speed record from Los Angeles to New York, the first transcontinental flight to average supersonic speed.

An avid pilot to this day, JOHN has over 9,000 hours of flight time in a variety of aircraft. To put that statistic in perspective, to equal that mark you would have to fly 8 hours a day, every day of the year, for 3 years.

Probably the flight that I remember the best, the one I enjoyed as much as any, was when JOHN GLENN and I flew to the northeast kingdom of Vermont in a small float plane at the height of glorious fall foliage. JOHN and Annie Glenn were staying with Marcelle and I at our farm in Middlesex, VT. JOHN had borrowed the plane from a friend of mine in Vermont. We flew up and set down in one of those little Vermont ponds with the fall foliage around it. There happened to be a trapper's convention there. Some of the people there

were calling him Colonel GLENN, not Senator GLENN. They kind of put up with me being there, but he was the hero.

Of course I do remember also the look on JOHN and Marcelle's and Annie's faces when we landed in Montpelier Airport in a heavy crosswind. JOHN turned to me after he taxied up and said, "You know, I have never been so frightened landing anything in my life," which almost stopped my heart to hear him tell it. But when we got out of the plane, JOHN was wearing—this is accurate now—a skunk-skin cap which the trappers had given him.

He stepped out of the airplane with me shaking and quivering behind him. Annie turned to Marcelle and says, "Marcelle, I told you we never should have let those boys go off by themselves."

We all know what happened in a far more dramatic time when JOHN strapped himself into a tiny capsule on top a gigantic tube of volatile fuel on February 20, 1962. When he landed 4 hours 55 minutes later, JOHN GLENN not only became the first American to orbit the Earth, but he boosted the psyche of our Nation in a way not seen equaled before or since.

Cicero said a man of courage is also full of faith. It should be said that JOHN GLENN is a man who puts all his faith in God.

All his accomplishments here in the Senate, in the cockpit, in the capsule, all pale before the one true constant in JOHN GLENN's life, and that is the love he shares with his beautiful wife Annie. They are truly a couple for the ages and role models for all of us. Married for 55 years, they have two wonderful children, John David and Carolyn Ann, whom we all know as Lyn.

When the space shuttle *Discovery* surges into space later this month, the cabin will be cramped with the seven astronauts aboard. But sitting with JOHN in spirit, as she has for so many years, will be Annie. They are truly inseparable. No matter how fast or far he travels, she is always with him.

Mr. President, later this month the eyes of the Nation and the world will focus on Cape Canaveral, FL. We will watch as a marvelous machine, built by Americans, flown by an international crew, roars into the heavens in the name of science, and on board will be our colleague from Ohio, a great Senator, an expert pilot and extraordinary American hero, my friend, JOHN GLENN. I intend to be there to cheer him on.

Once again, as he has done in so many ways over the years, JOHN GLENN will make us turn our eyes toward the heavens, and like all who will be there, I will say, "Godspeed, JOHN GLENN, and thank you."

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an article from Roll Call about Senator GLENN be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Roll Call, Oct. 5, 1998]

GLENN COUNTS DOWN TO LAUNCH WITH COMPLETE SUPPORT FROM WIFE AND COLLEAGUES—SENATOR SET TO REPEAT HISTORY
(By Ed Henry)

He's survived 149 combat missions as a Marine, orbited the Earth three times at 17,544 miles per hour as an astronaut and endured 24 years of partisan battles as a Senator.

But John Glenn says that one of the toughest missions of his life came as a husband: convincing his wife, Annie, that it was a good idea for him to be shot into space again at the end of this month.

"Let's say she was a little cool with this whole idea to begin with—that's the understatement," Glenn said in an interview about the Oct. 29 space mission. "She didn't react too kindly when I first started talking about this some time ago."

The 77-year-old Ohio Democrat said that while the couple's two children were not excited about the Discovery launch either, "Annie was the main one to convince."

Slipping into the lingo of an old Marine, Glenn noted that based on all of the dangers he's already faced, he could have gotten "bagged" long ago.

"There were lots of times that things could have gone a little bit different way, but they didn't," he said. "But I think all my life, I guess, you don't look back and think what might have been or where you might have gotten bagged or whatever. You look forward. There are risks in everything you do."

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), one of the couple's closest friends, said Annie was "apprehensive" about the fact that her husband was heading into space so close to his retirement from the Senate.

"She had some reluctance because he was coming to a time in his life when they were going to have more time together," said Leahy. "They are an extraordinarily close couple—they're sort of the role model for all of us in our own marriages."

Nobody underestimates the strength of Annie Glenn, who toughed her way through her husband's Feb. 20, 1962, Mercury mission, when he flirted with death in the 36-cubic-foot Friendship 7. She also had the guts to stand up to then-Vice President Lyndon Johnson by refusing to let him come into her home for a photo-op, out of fear for how her stutter would look in front of Johnson and so many network TV correspondents.

She was sitting up in the House gallery on that day in 1962 when Glenn jubilantly told a joint session of Congress, "I want you to meet my wife, Annie * * * Annie * * * the rock!"

And Glenn was there for Annie, Leahy recalled, when she conquered her stuttering problem 20 years ago. "We don't think of them as John or Annie," he said. "We think of them as John and Annie—it's just one word."

In finally deciding to hop aboard for this mission, Annie thought back to a vow her husband had made on the day they wed 55 years ago.

"One thing that she's reminded me of is that on our wedding day, along with the vows, one of the things I told her that day or that night sometime was that I would pledge to her I would try to do everything I could to keep life from ever being boring," said the Senator.

Then he added with a laugh, "And she's reminded me of that several times in the past, and this time, too, that she'd just as soon have things be a little bit more boring."

Since critics have said the upcoming nine-day mission is merely a joy ride, Glenn has done his homework. With great specificity, he can recount how the research about how a senior citizen is affected in space will do a

great deal for the 34 million seniors in America.

"She gradually over a period of time became an enthusiast for this," he said. "She's changed her view on this, as has my whole family, so she's excited about it."

Sen. Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.) said he spoke to Annie last week and she revealed that NASA will be providing a laptop so she can communicate with her husband in space.

"I said, 'Annie, aren't you apprehensive at all about this flight?'" recalled Bumpers. "She said, 'I'm never apprehensive about anything John really wants to do.'"

Annie Glenn will not be the only person close to the Senator lending her support at Cape Canaveral. A bipartisan delegation of Senators will be heading down to Florida on an official CODEL authorized by Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.) and Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.).

Daschle plans to be there for the launch, even though he faces re-election back in South Dakota less than a week later. Because Lott has a scheduling conflict, he will be sending Senate Appropriations Chairman Ted Stevens (R-Alaska)—who helped come up with the idea of a trip—to lead the Republican side.

"Senators have a way of coming together when another is involved," Lott said in an interview.

The office of Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Greg Casey, who is organizing the trip, does not have a complete list of Senators attending yet. The trip will originate from Andrews Air Force Base on the morning of the launch.

"We have a lot of interest from Senators," said Secretary of the Senate Gary Sisco, who will also attend.

Glenn said that while colleagues have not discussed the launch with him, he's heard whispers about it and feels gratified.

"It's a good feeling to know that there are going to be people there that you have worked with all these years—that they think enough about it to be down there," he said.

Another person who was supposed to be at the Cape was Alan Shepard, his onetime rival in the Mercury program, who recently died. Glenn admits that Shepard's death reminded him of his own mortality, but the Senator insists he's not worried about his safety.

"I've always been very aware of my own mortality anyway," said Glenn. "I got over that teenage immortality bit a long time ago."

Glenn suggested he is at peace with his decision. "I have a deep religious faith and I have all my life," he said. "I don't believe in calling on your religion like a fire engine, you know, 'Oh God, get me out of this mess I've gotten myself into and I'll be so good even you won't believe it.'"

He added, "But I think . . . we should all live so that if something like that happens to us it won't be a big shock. It's a shock. It would be a shock, of course. Nothing can be 100 percent safe. Everyone knows that. But I think the safety record NASA has had through the manned space program has been absolutely amazing."

Besides his combat missions in Korea and World War II, Glenn faced danger in 1962.

"Some of the ophthalmologists predicted your eyes might change shape," he said. "It was serious enough that if you look at the Friendship 7 over there in the Air and Space Museum now, up on top of the instrument panel there's still a little eye chart that I was to read every 20 minutes to see if my eyes were changing."

When asked why he took such risks, without so much as a blink Glenn responds, "I thought it was valuable for the country."

Colleagues say it is this modesty—as well as Glenn's relationship with his wife—that they will remember most.

"He's one of my favorite people in the whole world because he wears his heroism with such extraordinary modesty," said Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.).

Senators like 51-year-old Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) seem awed by getting the chance to serve with Glenn.

"It's like serving with a legend," said Johnson. "The fact that I served with John Glenn is something I'll tell my grandkids."

As a young Navy pilot, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) revered Glenn and says the upcoming mission will remind everyone of that.

"I know it will just affirm in people's minds that we're privileged to have known a great American hero," he said. "I am honored to be in his company. I am serious. I am honored to be in his company."

Sen. Richard Bryan (D-Nev.) said he will try to be in Florida, partially because of a simple expression of love he saw when Bonnie Bryan and Annie Glenn recently traveled together to Saudi Arabia. From across the globe, Mrs. Glenn placed a phone call to her husband in the Senate cloakroom.

Bryan recalled, "He was very excited and came up to me and said, 'I've got Annie on the line, would you like to talk to Bonnie?' John and Annie have this very special relationship—you can sense that."

Leahy recalled riding in the back seat one time as the Glenns kept teasing and poking fun at one another in front seat.

"The two of them are like a pair of teenagers," he said.

But a much sadder occasion reminded Leahy of his affection for the couple. When Leahy's mother died last year, he found out that the Glenns had been trying to lift her spirits during her illness.

"One of the things I found on her bed stand was a handwritten note from John and Annie," said Leahy. "They both had written a couple of paragraphs in the letter. These are very special people."

For Glenn, his frequent trips to Houston for training seem to have been a sort of fountain of youth.

Every time Glenn returns from Houston, said Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), he's been updated about the status of the mission. "It's wonderful to see someone so engaged and lit up with enthusiasm," he said.

It has also reminded Glenn about the differences between his two careers.

"Here of course, the political lines are drawn and you have confrontation and you have to put everything through a political sieve to know what's real and what isn't in people's minds," he said.

"Back when I was in the Mercury program or in the program down there now, it's such a pleasure to work in that program because everything is so focused on one objective that everybody's agreed on."

The similarities between the two jobs, he concluded, are limited.

"Both fields take a lot of dedication to accomplish anything. That would be a big similarity, dedication to country and dedication to what you're doing. But that's about where the similarities end."

Mr. LEAHY. I yield the floor.

Mr. GRASSLEY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. AL-LARD). The Senator from Iowa.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 1998—CONFERENCE REPORT

MOTION TO PROCEED

The Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to the conference report.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the business before the Senate is the mo-

tion to proceed on the bankruptcy conference report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, as we take up the conference report to the bankruptcy bill, I want to make clear that this report is a balanced and fair compromise between the House and Senate bankruptcy bills. The fact of the matter is that the process of a conference is a process of joining two bills that have passed both Houses in different forms.

One of the key differences between the House and Senate was the question of means testing. The House had a very strict formula, while the Senate bill contained a change to a section of the bankruptcy code which directs judges to consider repayment capacity.

On this point of means testing, the House had one provision formula driven, very much different from the Senate provision that was more subjective in the decision of a judge of whether somebody should be in chapter 7 or chapter 13. But, obviously, even in the Senate bill, we had penalties and incentives for people who should be filing under chapter 13 but, in fact, filed under chapter 7. We had these differences on means testing between the House and the Senate.

Under the conference report that is now before us, a debtor can file in any chapter of the bankruptcy code, and before a debtor can be transferred from chapter 7 to chapter 13, a judge will review the merits of each case.

Mr. President, I think this is important to understand because we provide that every single person who wants their day in court with due process will get it, because under the conference report, each debtor will receive an individual hearing and get a chance to press his or her own case. In other words, the conference report maintains the judicial scrutiny that I think was the distinguishing factor of the Senate bill's means test. Of course, we have a flexible means test before us today that is a product of the conference compromise.

When the Senate considered my bankruptcy reform bill, I spoke at length about the need for reform, and I would like to restate those points as we go to final consideration, after this conference report was overwhelmingly passed by the House of Representatives just a few hours ago.

The need for this bill is based upon the statistics of bankruptcy, and those statistics speak for themselves. The number of bankruptcy filings has skyrocketed in recent years. In 1994, the total number of nonbusiness filings was just over 780,000, probably thought to be too much at that time, and maybe the number was too high at that time. But in 1996, this figure jumped to 1.1 million, and, astonishingly, the 1997 figure was almost 1.35 million. Of course, the trend is continuing.

There is no letup in the dramatic increase in the number of personal bank-

ruptcies being filed even this very day in this country, because filings for the first quarter of 1998 are over 20,000 higher than for the same time last year. They are almost 90,000 ahead of the first quarter of 1996. Unfortunately, the future looks even bleaker. A study released just a few days ago predicted that the number of personal bankruptcies will exceed 2.2 million by the year 2001.

If there is any better reason or rationale for the adoption of this conference report by this body before we go home for recess, it is that the high number of personal bankruptcy filings is continuing to shoot up at a tremendous rate, unjustified for the economic conditions we are in. We think 1.4 million is too high. In 3 years—in 2½ years—they will be well over 2 million if we don't do something about it, and I think this legislation will do something about it.

The interesting and alarming thing is that this unprecedented increase in the filings for bankruptcy comes at a time when our economy is very, very healthy. Disposable income is up, unemployment is very low, and the interest rates are very low.

Here is something that just does not make sense, then. Common sense and basic economics would say that when times are as good as they are now—almost the longest peacetime recovery this country has ever had—when the economy is flourishing, that bankruptcies should not shoot up as well; that is, unless there is something wrong. And there is something wrong.

The bankruptcy code is flawed. There is need for reform. There is not any shame connected with bankruptcy anymore. There is lack of personal responsibility. There is lack of corporate responsibility, as well as credit card companies are pushing credit cards into mailboxes every day. And the bankruptcy bar is not adequately counseling people as to whether or not they should even be in bankruptcy, let alone discouraging them from being in chapter 7 when they should be in chapter 13. But with all of these put together, Mr. President, in my view, the main problem in our bankruptcy law, quite simply, is that current law discourages personal responsibility.

Let me start out by saying that most people who declare bankruptcy because of their low incomes, their inability to pay, probably are correct in doing so. When I say that, that does not counteract what I just said about assuming personal responsibility or not having some shame connected with bankruptcy. But as far as our present law is concerned, and their ability to repay, I would have to say that that is probably where they should be.

But that does not mean that we do not have a responsibility through our society and through the standards set by our Government to do something about the fact that so many people are in bankruptcy in the first place. We will have to deal with that sometime